

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 NEA-10 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5139

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1476

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF, EI

SUBJ: IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST

1. FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD EXPRESSED CONCERN TO CHARGE DURING SOCIAL ENCOUNTER NOVEMBER 2 THAT THE USG WILL NOT BRING SUFFICIENT PRESSURE ON ISRAELIS TO FORCE WITHDRAWAL TO POSITIONS HELD OCTOBER 22. NOTING THAT IRELAND WILL HAVE SOME 240 TROOPS IN BETWEEN THESE OPPOSING FORCES--TROOPS WHICH HE SAID WERE URGENTLY NEEDED AT HOME BECAUSE OF A SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEM WITH THE IRA -- FITZGERALD STOUTLY ARGUED THAT THE USG HAD SERIOUSLY ERRED IN "PERMITTING" THE ISRAELIS TO ACHIEVE A SIGNIFICANT VICTORY BECAUSE IT WOULD MAKE THEM LESS LIKELY TO MAKE THE LONGER TERM CONCESSIONS NECESSARY TO BRING A DURABLE PEACE TO THE AREA.

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2. CHARACTERIZING THE ISRAELIS AS "AGRESSORS," FITZGERALD SAID

IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT THE USG IN ITS OWN INTEREST NOW DO "WHAT-
EVER WAS NECESSARY" TO FORCE THE ISRAELIS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS.
THE TENSIONS ALREADY GENERATED BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EUROPE ON
THIS ISSUE WERE SEVERE. CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL
WITHOUT FORCING A SETTLEMENT, OR AT LEAST WITHOUT FORCING ISRAELI
CONCESSIONS THAT WOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS A GENUINE ATTEMPT TO
SETTLE, WOULD COST THE U.S. HEAVILY IN EUROPE. IN THE LONGER
TERM, WITHOUT SUCH A SETTLEMENT FITZGERALD PREDICTED OUR
"UNQUALIFIED" SUPPORT OF ISRAEL WOULD ALTER THE WHOLE STRUCTURE OF
OUR RELATIONS, AND HE ASKED WHETHER WE HAD SERIOUSLY THOUGHT ABOUT
THIS.

3. AS ALWAYS, FITZGERALD'S PRESENTATION WAS SPIRITED BUT PERSONALLY
FRIENDLY. DRAWING ON BACKGROUND SUPPLIED BY DEPT, CHARGE REVIEWED
SITUATION THAT FORCED US TO RESUPPLY THE ISRAELIS AND SAID THAT OUR
INFLUENCE OVER THE SITUATION WAS MORE LIMITED THAN THE MINISTER
SEEMED TO APPRECIATE. AS TO THE DANGERS OF NOT ACHIEVING A DURABLE
SETTLEMENT, CHARGE SAID THAT IT WAS TO ENCOURAGE THE ARABAS AND
ISRAELIS IN THE SEARCH FOR SUCH A SETTLEMENT THAT TALKS HAD BEEN
GOING ON IN WASHINGTON AND THE SECRETARY WAS FLYING TO CAIRO AND
OTHER ARAB CAPITALS.

4. COMMENT: IRISH ATTITUDES TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST ARE MARKEDLY
PRO-ARAB, AND THERE IS LITTLE, IF ANY, SYMPATHY FOR ISRAEL. ITS
POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS COMPARED IN THE IRISH MIND TO AN
INTRUSION OF FOREIGN POWER IN IRELAND.

IN THE SHORT RUN THERE WILL BE LITTLE WE CAN DO TO CHANGE
THESE VIEWS BEYOND KEEPING THE GOVERNMENT COMPLETELY INFORMED.
IN THIS CONNECTION, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL IF
WE COULD BRIEF FITZGERALD ON THE LARGER SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS
OUTLINED

IN THE DEPARTMENT'S 217489. THIS WOULD EDUCATE HIM TO THE
CONCERNS THAT AFFECT OUR RELATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EC
AND COULD HELP TO DRAW THE IRISH INTO BEING MORE AWARE OF
STRATEGIC PROBLEMS. SORENSON

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